



**Start of Stettin; Jewish Community
Collection**

AR 3790

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Stettin; Jewish Community Collection, 1946-1990

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Gemeinde Stettin

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1. Mosbach, Erich Report about the years of Nazi-persecution Berlin
Beginning of 1946 typewr copy 4p 3790
 2. B.B. "In Stettin und Pommern" n.p. n.d.
Ztg.A sschn lp
 3. Ambrose, Kenneth (eig. Peter Cronheim) "Stettin
Re-visited" AJR Information London March 1973
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 4. E.G.L. "Stettin : Die erste Massendeportation
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Ztg.Art lp
- 1.Name 2.Stettin 3.Nationalsozialismus 1933-1945

Copy.

Dr. Erich Mosbach
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Beginning of 1946.

In the following report I will try to give you a short summary of our experiences during the last 5 1/2 years. This is, of course, possible in a fragmentary manner only, because we experienced such monstrous events during these 5 1/2 years that we could write a whole book in order to report only the most essential happenings. Owing to the fact that I am a physician I saw and lived through the horrors to a greater degree than other people. On the other hand I am convinced that it was only my profession which gave me the chance to survive this period.

As you know, we were evacuated from Stettin on February 1940. A detachment of Gestapo agents appeared in the evening in every Jewish house and read an order that we were to leave Germany in eight hours. Friendly as the gentlemen were, they wanted to give us the opportunity to comply with this order. We got permission magnanimously to take a suitcase along. We were brought to the freight yards and at noon on February 13, 1940 we left Stettin in the direction Lublin. It was bitterly cold - especially bad for the many old people; both homes for the aged were forced to come along to this way of misery. At the station everybody got a cement bag with food. But you can imagine our condition since we did not have a drop of water during the whole trip - 14 days. Already we had the first dead, and among the old people the first cases of insanity. In Lublin we were received in the customary SS manner and with shooting and beatings we were driven to a camp about 2 km. away. Quite a number of people were without shoes during the hasty unloading and had now to walk in their stockings in a temperature of about 35 degree C. (15 below Zero). The suitcases we carried with us were immediately taken away in Lublin. The Stettinners were then distributed in 3 small localities and herded together in the existing ghettos. A part our old ones was brought to the Jewish Hospital - about 200 and many died soon afterward. Among them were Mrs. Freitag, Mr. Glaser, Mrs. Keibel, Dr. and Mrs. Katz, Dr. Meyring, Mrs. Fonfe and many, many more. A number of persons lost their limbs through frostbites, among them a little girl who had gone to school in Stettin and who had both hands and feet amputated. In the ghettos where our friends had to exist miserably, death had a rich harvest. Spotted fever, privations of every kind and typhus took care of that. It is impossible to mention all the names, but if you are interested in someone particular, we will gladly give you information any time as far as possible.

Haendel, Gabali, Fonfe, Gabriel died in Piaski. Dr. Martin Mayer, Dr. Rotholz, Dr. Hendselsohn and almost all our old ones in Glusk. But those who died in these localities found at least a natural end and were buried in Jewish cemeteries.

In March 1942 the so called evacuation began. Shipments were made up that have never been heard of again. Among the first ones who disappeared were Mrs. Will, Mrs. Haendel, Mr. and Mrs. Hanff, Mrs. Riess, Else Fliess ... They went most likely to a death camp; there were plenty of them in Poland. This was the beginning of the end. More and more Jews were collected and taken away. This method reached its culmination in October 1942. Now it was already known where the way was leading to - into the gaschambers and then the ovens. Among the last transport from Piaski were the families Cron, Lewinnek and Stapler who did not want to undergo those tortures and voluntarily took their own lives.

At That time we moved from our place in Bychawa where I was in charge of a hospital for spotted fever and where we were comparatively well off, to Belcyce. Dr. Flater had been here with a group of Stettinners and had worked as a physician. But he already left with his family for a workcamp. Many thousands of Jews were herded together in this place and everybody knew what was

coming. The night before the "evacuation" we succeeded with about 100 other people to go into hiding (likewise Mr. Dombrower with sister, Paul Bauchwitz, Mela Senger and Mrs. Eva Süsskind). The SS surrounded the village at night. In the morning the hangmen arrived and everywhere shooting and desperate cries could be heard. The poor people were herded together like cattle, families were brutally separated; those who were still strong and able to work were selected for the concentration camps. Old people, women and children were sent to the gas camps immediately. After we came out of our hiding place we saw a horrifying picture. Corpses and corpses everywhere. Whole mountains on the Jewish cemetery among them many still alive. I personally saved a living baby from among the dead. All inmates of the Jewish hospital lay dead in their beds - shot through the head. Only the family Heimann survived among the many hundreds of Stettinern at this village, besides the already mentioned names. Through a great deal of bribing we succeeded that a work camp was established at this place, similar to the one in which Dr. Flater was living. Now in Novemb. 1942 all women and children were killed in Dr. Flaters camp, among them Flaters sisters, his wife and his boy. Our camp was spared this time. It was not until May of the following year that our camp was "broken up". The murderers appeared at dawn, according to their method. The camp was surrounded and the people were mustered like slaves on a market. Of the 1200 about 300 persons were transferred to another camp. Among them the surviving Stettiner. Terrible scenes among the remainder. The men were forced to dig graves, women and children had to take off their clothes and then the "killing off" process began. Women were knocked down with hatchets because there was not enough ammunition. Small children had their heads smashed against a wall-- one cannot and will not go into all details. They are too gruesome; why make the heart still heavier. Believe me, even a Dante would have been unable to describe what we had to experience. No imagination can possible picture the reality. Those men found a pleasure to torture their small victims in a bestial manner and whole methods had been worked out to prolong a murder for hours.

The remainder came to another camp, as mentioned before. It was Rudzyn, an ill reputed work camp of the Heinkel airplane factory. The people there lay closely packed together on bunks without straw or blankets. The daily bread ration consisted of 190 grams; that for the heaviest manual labor; the so called food, the soup, consisted of withered salad, and other vegetable waste with a few unpeeled potatoes, everything unwashed, to give the food the necessary flavor by means of the dirt. Hunger edemas were a daily occurrence, naturally. When sick people came to my quarters and did not get well very fast, the SS acted as doctor and took them out of the quarters and shot them. There was no end to the killing. Paul Bauchwitz was hanged here. The reason he was the foreman of a bigger group. Three men escaped and he allegedly reported this incident 5 minutes too late. Fugitives who were caught were hanged naked by their feet, during the coldest winter and were treated in a manner impossible to describe. When they became unconscious water was poured over them and as soon as they came alive again, the procedure was repeated until the final death.

And so we were driven from camp to camp. We still had the good fortune of being together, all three of us. Likewise Eva Süsskind, Mrs. Senger and Dombrowers. Finally in October 1944 the bitter hour of separation came for us too. I was sent to Gross-Rosen, near Breslau, a stone quarry. We had to work 12 hours daily without even being permitted to stretch for a second. Flows rained down on us from morning till late into the night and after exactly two days I was fit -- ready for the oven. With much luck and tricks I succeeded again in escaping the oven and came on a shipment to Buchenwald as a special locksmith. And how my fate turned out: in Buchenwald I met a Jewish friend who had been a frequent guest in our bowling club in Stettin, Mr. Löwenberger from Nürnberg. He was very helpful to me in many respects, because he had been there since 1936 he belonged to the "old guard". There were two other men from Stettin who helped

me like real friends. The shipments took usually 8 days; we received food for 2 days; the other days you just starved. Besides it was very hard to obtain anything in such a camp: a threadbare jacket, torn trousers, underneath a short shirt - except a pair of wooden shoes - that was all the clothing, all the earthly possessions. How happy we were when somebody procured a handkerchief or a pair of underpants, because November was already very cold on the Ettelsberg and we were frozen stiff after being forced to stand for the roll call for 6-7 hours at a time.

Soon I became the attendant Doctor in the dysentery barracks. But my professional work consisted only in registering the death of the sick. Imagine a big wooden barrack, unheated, only with long bunks, 4 layers high, no straw and only one thin blanket. Food was completely insufficient, almost nothing to drink, no medicine. Besides the sick arrived in such a condition that it was always nearly impossible to save them. The conditions in the camp became worse from day to day because of the closing of camps in the east. 2000 - 3000 people were packed together in one barrack. Food became less and less - it was a real hell. How often we talked - if one of us should ever livethrough to describe these conditions - that nobody in the world would or could ever believe us. I do not want to go into details in this letter; that would go too far. Enough of it.

At the end of February 1945 I volunteered for shipment to a small camp which was supposed to be very good. Only 400 men were there. But the conditions! The food consisted, day in day out, of a soup prepared without fat or salt, in addition to a small piece of bread which was often inedible because it was completely moldy. Once there was meat. It came from the slaughter house, but it was so spoiled that even the prisoners could not eat it anymore and it had to be buried in the ground. Our only pleasure were the daily air raids. The guard buildings were hit with phantastic accuracy while the camp itself was never bombed.

The Americans came nearer and nearer. We build a radio receiver under great danger and now we heard the nightly reports with breathless tension. Suddenly one morning alarm. In forced marches we were driven day and night in the direction of Tirol. 250 of the 400 men were shot because they could not keep up with us. At last, near Füssen, in the district of Allgäu, I persuaded a friend to risk an escape with me. It succeeded and we went into hiding high up in the mountains. We were overjoyed when we saw after a few days American tanks deep down in the valleys. We raced down, liberation!! We became a human being again.... it was like a dream. We were received with such cordiality and friendliness. Brothers of our race and all alike - they did what ever they could. We were pumped full with food and all good things. Well, you can easily imagine how we felt. Only the uncertainty what had become of my loved ones worried me and so I started out a few days later, across Germany towards Stettin. And during these marches I experienced the biggest miracle, because suddenly, there were no Nazis in Germany anymore and had never been there. Everybody I talked to, was naturally always been an antinazi. In Stettin I met my parents-in-law who had gone through the most difficult time. They were saved only by the fast end of the war. Now we waited for Vera and Ivi, full of anxiety. Both of them were sent to Auschwitz in Oct. 1944 and here Vera succeeded after a few days in getting on a shipment to Ravensbrück with the child. The living conditions here were the same as I described them before. They worked under great privations 12 hours daily in a factory of Siemens, even the child. Because a separation would have been unavoidable had the little one not held out. And what that meant in the end, I do not have to tell you. Roll call every morning at 5 o'clock, work till late at night, without any rest. And the food like zero, no real place to stay and hunger, hunger, hunger. Besides that, the constant fear, to be unable to do the work and always

the burning heat from the fiery smoke stacks of the crematorium before their eyes. Day and night the sky was lit by that fiery red of terror and annihilation.

Vera continued to work, in spite of sickness and high fever. And then this camp too was broken up. The SS drove them forward. But the Russians were faster. They overtook them and for them too the hour of liberation had come. They reached the international displaced persons camp. Vera collapsed and lay for many weeks with a serious case of pneumonia. We knew nothing of them in Stettin, were without any news. Finally, in June they came back. We were half delirious with joy and can not be too grateful, how fate watched and guarded over us. Besides the three of us, only Mrs. Eva Süsskind, Mrs. Dombrower, Mrs. Baden and Mrs. Meyer are probable alive. (the last two had to share the fate of their Jewish husbands).

Today it is January 1. 1946. We sit together in Berlin, in the small apartment of Leopold Klein, who was hidden all these years and whose family, wife, child, mother and sister perished in Poland. We became human beings again, free men. We had already a good life in Stettin; I had a very busy office, but overnight we lost again everything we possessed, clothing etc. etc. Bandits robbed us completely. But we are happy to be well and united again. Everything else is unimportant. Now we hope that the New Year fulfills our only wish: to see all our friends soon again. We hope that five of us can go on board the boat in Bremerhaven and leave this country, that made us go to the limit of all the bitterness of life and where we will never be able to feel comfortable, in spite of all the nice talk and all promises. Rather break stones in America than lead a comfortable life in Germany.

Many kind regards to all those who have not forgotten us.

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Die Deportation und Ausrottung der Juden aus Stettin und Vorpommern

Am 1. Januar 1940 verkündete der Gauleiter von Pommern SCHWEDE-COBURG und der Oberbürgermeister von Stettin FABER, dass alle Juden aus dem Regierungsbezirk Stettin in dem leerstehenden Gebäude des früheren Warenhauses BLUMENREICH konzentriert werden sollten. Proteste der Grundstücksnachbarn und Warnungen der Gesundheits-Behörde sowie eine Intervention der Reichsvereinigung der Juden bei den Behörden in Berlin vereitelten die Ausführung des Planes. Daraufhin bereitete der Gauleiter die Deportation in das eroberte Polen vor.

Am Abend des 12. Februar 1940 erschienen Polizisten sowie SA- und SS-Männer in allen Wohnungen von Juden und erklärten ihnen, dass sie innerhalb von vier Stunden abtransportiert würden. Eine von ihnen, Frau Gertrud Meier, behielt den Wortlaut der Aufforderung in Erinnerung, die einem dieser Männer zugestellt worden war und die sie auf ihren Tisch hatte lesen können: "Sie werden aufgefordert, an der Aktion teilzunehmen, Stettin judenrein zu machen" (Rosenfeld-Luckner, S. 27).

Die Aktion, zwar zur Irreführung in einem gewissen Masse verschleiert, war eindeutig auf Enteignung und Ausrottung abgestellt. Vordrucke wurden ausgehändigt, in denen die Juden ihr Vermögen, ihr Hab und Gut anführen sollten, sowie welche Sachen sie auf den Transport mitnehmen wollten. Es wurde ihnen geraten, warme Kleidung anzuziehen, Decken mitzunehmen und soviel Sachen zu einzupacken, wie sie in einem Koffer bequem würden tragen können. Während der ganzen Zeit wurden sie bewacht bis sie um Mitternacht zum Hauptgüterbahnhof gebracht wurden.

Die Deportation schloss ohne Achtung des Alters alle ein: Männer, Frauen, Jugendliche, Kinder, Säuglinge, auch die Einwohner der beiden jüdischen Altersheime. Zurückgelassen wurde von diesen nur wer wegen Krankheit nicht transportfähig war.

Auf dem Güterbahnhof hatte jeder alle Wertsachen und alles Geld abzuliefern. Jeder musste eine Lebensvisitation über sich ergehen lassen. Frauen wurden von städtischen Fuersorgerinnen und von "Damen des Stettiner sogenannten besseren Gesellschaft" visitiert.

Jeder bekam 20 Zloty und einen grossen Papiersack (eigentlich fuer Zement) mit einigen Lebensmitteln. Die Koffer der Deportierten mussten zum Transport in einem Gepackwagen abgeliefert werden. Manche sahen ihren Koffer nie wieder.

Der Zug aus ungeheizten Vierter-Klasse-Wagen bestehend, fuhr drei strenge Wintertage lang langsam nach Osten. Schnee von den Fenstern ergab ein wenig Trinkwasser. Einige Deportierte starben schon auf der Eisenbahnfahrt. Viele mehr brachen auf dem Marsch vom Bahnhof Lublin nach den Doerfern PIASKI, BELCYCE und GLUSK zusammen, der sie vierzehn Stunden lang ueber tief verschneite Landwege fuehrte. Zweiundsiebzig Maenner, Frauen, Kinder wurden auf diesem Marsch liegen gelassen, der groesste Teil von ihnen erfror zu Tode. (Dokument NG-2490, Bericht vom 28.3.1940 an Himmler, Seite 3)

"Ein Teil der Alten wuerde in Lublin ins juedische Krankenhaus geschafft - etwa 200 - und dort bald durch den Tod erloest". Viele hatten durch Erfrierungen Gliedmassen verloren, darunter ein kleines Maedchen, dem beide Haende und Fuesse amputiert werden mussten.

Waehrend des ersten Jahres in Polen fanden viele ihren Tod, einige starben, andere wurden ermordet. Im Oktober 1942 wurden die Ueberlebenden (etwa 800) in ein Vernichtungslager gebracht. Nur etwa zehn Deportierte wurden bei Kriegsende befreit.

Ein Verzeichnis der Deportierten von Stettin, im Jahre 1941 bei der Polizei Lublin angefertigt, fand sich nach dem Weltkriege in einem polnischen Archiv und ein Mikrofilm davon gelangte in das Institut Yad Veshem, Jerusalem.

Das Verzeichnis enthaelt 1126 Namen mit Angaben der Vornamen, Geburtsdaten, Beruf, ehemaligem Wohnort, Namen der Eltern sowie der Religion fuer die Getauften und fuer einige 'arische' Ehepartner eines juedischen Deportierten.

Dieser Deportation aus Stettin folgte in Maerz 1940 die Deportation von 160 Juden aus Schneidenmuehl (Westpreussen).

Zeugnisse und Bibliographie

Neue Zuercher Zeitung 1940 = Die Deportation der deutschen Juden, Berlin, 15. Februar 1940.

Document NG 2490, 1940 = Office of the Chief of Counsel for War Crimes (Bericht vom 28.3.1940 an Himmler).

Anonym, 1941

= The Wiener Library (P.III.c.No. 62, recorded 1.9.1941; Yad Veshem 02(425). Moeglicherweise ein Zeugnis von Frau Elsa Meyring, ehemals Stadtraetin in Stettin, 1933 entlassen, im Februar 1940 mit ihrem Mann nach Polen deportiert; jedoch gelangte sie auf Grund eines vorher erteilten Visas im Juni 1940 nach Schweden.

Polizei Lublin 1942

= Liste der aus dem Regierungsbezirk Stettin in den Distrikt Lublin evakuierten und verstorbenen Juden, 1940-41 (Nr. 82 Akta Rady Zydowskiej W Lublinie; Yad Veshem, Microfilm JM 30).

E. Dresel - J. Peiser 1946

= Rundbrief, Kreis ehemaliger pommerscher Juden, Tel Aviv, November 1946.

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= Arbeit als Juedin (The Wiener Library, PIII.h./Lublin; Yad Veshem 02/54).

E. Rosenfeld - G. Lueckner 1968 = Lebenszeichen aus Piaski. Briefe Deportierter aus dem Distrikt Lublin 1940-1943, Muenchen, 1945.

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